

RE: Kansas Wildlife & Parks Community Fisheries Assist Program

SUMMARY:

Eagle Lake is part of the State Fish Stocking Program through the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department which stocks the lake every two weeks with approximately 45-50 catfish. Eagle Lake was stocked with a total of 728 fish last year (value \$1,029.39). The lake is listed in the Kansas Fishing Regulations as a community lake, which classifies Eagle Lake as a public lake. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exists between the City and the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department as part of the Community Lake Assistant Grant received many years ago and continues in force.

A new initiative is being implemented by the Kansas Wildlife and Park's Department thru the Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) to maximize federal fisheries aid to the benefit of Kansas anglers. (One million dollars has been allocated to this program across the state). Because community lakes offer some of the most convenient fishing locations in the state, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks chose to concentrate on these fisheries for this program. CFAP seeks to reduce barriers to fishing while providing financial incentive to communities (known as cooperators) to improve fisheries and angler facilities, and to provide family friendly fishing areas close to where people live.

The primary benefits of participation in the enhanced CFAP are twofold. First, anglers will not have the added expense of an additional fishing permit. Secondly, the participating community cooperator will receive additional financial support from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Park's for operation and maintenance of all facilities associated with fishing on the property. In order to provide these benefits, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks leases fishing rights from local governments.

There are three options for the City -

(1) Continue with the current "Community Lakes Assistance Grant" the City has with the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department which means that stocking will be available only after "Enhanced" and state-owned waters have been stocked, grant consideration will also be less or nonexistent. In this case, cooperators will not receive assistance from fisheries staff, will not be eligible for grants or special regulations set by the Secretary of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and will not be eligible for stocking or fish from state hatcheries. In addition, state fishing license requirements will remain in effect, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks law enforcement retains jurisdiction.

(2) Participate in the new “Community Lakes Assistance Program” - What this means for Bel Aire...The City would no longer charge a fee for fishing licenses but in turn would receive from the Kansas Wildlife and Park’s Department a yearly “lease” payment of \$1,000. Calculation of the lease amount is based on either the average annual revenue generated in past years from license fees or on a basic price per surface acre of water with additional consideration given for additional angler facilities and fisheries quality.

Cooperator - Bel Aire		Lake-Eagle Lake	
Lease Criteria	\$/Acre	Acreage	Subtotal
Surface Acres	\$10.00	4	\$40.00
Motorboat Angling	\$5.00	0	\$0
Shoreline Fishing	\$5.00	4	\$20.00
Min. Quality Fisheries	\$5.00	4	\$20.00
Fish Feeding Program	\$5.00	0	\$0
Heated Fishing Dock	\$5.00	0	\$0
Habitat Improvement Plan	\$5.00	0	\$0
Family Friendly Facility	\$5.00	4	\$20.00

Calculated Lease Amount	\$ 100.00
Revenue (past year)	\$ 590.00
Actual Payment	\$1,000.00
O&M requirement	\$ 750.00

Since the City’s calculated lease amount and revenue is less than the minimum offered in the program the City would receive a lease of \$1000 annually and would be required to document an annual O&M of \$750. The City would also be eligible to apply for Grant funding for development costs through the department.

(3) Drop all programs with the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department for any funding, stocking, etc. at Eagle Lake.

Staff will pursue with the Kansas Wildlife and Park’s Department for obtaining status and funding at the Central Park lakes.